

in which one or more steel ropes are embedded in an insulator, such as polyurethane or rubber as shown in Figures 7 and 8, for example. The most prevalent modes of deterioration of wire ropes include internal abrasion, corrosion, breaking and kinking. A defect such as a crack, cut or other discontinuity in a ferromagnetic member, such as a wire, can be detected by monitoring magnetic flux density distribution within the belt or rope. Of course, other types of inspection devices may be used within the scope of this invention.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please make the following changes to the claims. A marked up version of the original claims is attached as Appendix 1.

1. (Twice Amended) An elevator system comprising:

a cab;

at least one rope having a plurality of metallic load bearing members associated with the cab;

at least one sheave that guides the rope as the cab moves; and

an inspection device spaced from the sheave, the inspection device providing information regarding a wear condition of a portion of the rope that is most likely to wear when the portion is away from the sheave.

5. (Amended) A method of inspecting at least one belt in an elevator system where the belt is associated with a cab and is guided by at least one sheave, comprising the steps of:

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- (A) determining a portion of the belt that is most likely to wear;
- (B) positioning an inspection device relative to the belt and spaced from the sheave; and
- (C) gathering information regarding a wear condition of the portion of the belt that is most likely to wear when the portion is spaced away from the sheave.

13. (Amended) A method of determining a wear condition of at least one belt in an elevator system where the belt is associated with a cab and is guided by at least one sheave, comprising the steps of:

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A) considering at least one of :

- a number of bends that the belt experiences as the cab travels between locations,
- dimensions of a sheave along which the belt travels,
- the manner in which the sheave is supported within the elevator system,
- an angle of belt wrap around the sheave, and
- a worst case loading on a plurality of portions of the belt;

B) determining a portion of the belt that is most likely to wear based

upon the consideration from step (A); and

C) positioning an inspection device relative to the belt and spaced

from the sheave such that the inspection device is capable of gathering wear information regarding the portion of the belt from step (B) when the portion is spaced away from the sheave.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a plurality of steel cords encased in a polyurethane jacket and wherein the inspection device provides information regarding at least one of the cords inside of the polyurethane jacket.

18. (New) The method of claim 5, including determining a wear condition of an internal portion of the belt.

19. (New) The method of claim 13, including gathering wear information regarding an internal portion of the belt.

20. (New) An elevator system, comprising:

a cab;

at least one belt having a plurality of metallic load bearing members encased within a polyurethane jacket that establishes an outer surface of the belt, the belt supporting a load associated with the cab;

at least one sheave that guides the belt as the cab moves; and

an inspection device that provides information regarding a wear condition of at least one of the internal metallic load bearing members along a portion of the belt that is most likely to wear.

21. (New) A method of inspecting at least one belt in an elevator system where the belt has a plurality of metallic load bearing members encased in a polyurethane

jacket and the belt is guided by at least one sheave during movement of a car within the elevator system, comprising the steps of:

determining a portion of the belt that is most likely to wear;

positioning an inspection device in a location where the inspection device inspects the portion of the belt that is most likely to wear; and

gathering information regarding a wear condition of at least one of the metallic load bearing members inside of the portion of the belt that is most likely to wear.

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22. (New) A method of determining a wear condition of at least one belt in an elevator system where the belt has a plurality of metallic load bearing members encased in a polyurethane jacket and the belt is associated with a cab and is guided by at least one sheave, comprising the steps of:

A) considering at least one of :

a number of bends that the belt experiences as the cab travels between locations,

dimensions of a sheave along which the belt travels,

the manner in which the sheave is supported within the elevator system,

an angle of belt wrap around the sheave, and

a worst case loading on a plurality of portions of the belt;

B) determining a portion of the belt that is most likely to wear based upon the consideration from step (A); and

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C) positioning an inspection device relative to the belt such that the inspection device is capable of gathering wear information regarding at least one of the metallic load bearing members within the polyurethane jacket in the portion of the belt from step (B).
